



Serving the amateur radio
community & City of Portland
Since 1941

the sPARC gap

Promote, advance, and have fun with amateur radio in our community



W7LT.org

2025 4th Quarter

As we wrap up another busy and rewarding year, I'm once again reminded that what truly defines PARC is not the radios we operate, but the people behind them. PARC is at its best when members are learning, experimenting, teaching, and sharing. This year saw our members active across nearly every corner of amateur radio—portable operations in parks and on summits, contesting from home and in the field, thoughtful technical learning, and plenty of mentoring and encouragement along the way.

This sPARC Gap issue highlights how broad and accessible our hobby is. You'll find operating tips, thoughtful stories from members, activity updates, meeting summaries, and a well-deserved spotlight on one of the Oregon radio community's longtime contributors, reminding us that PARC's greatest asset is its members.

None of this happens without volunteers. Our officers, committee members, net control operators, event organizers, and behind-the-scenes helpers continue to give their time and energy to keep the club thriving. I'm deeply grateful for their service, and I encourage any member who is able to consider getting involved in the year ahead. Whether you can help occasionally or take on a leadership role, there is always room for more hands - and more ideas.

Thank you for being part of PARC, for making 2025 such a strong year, and for everything you do to support amateur radio in our community. I look forward to seeing what we'll build together in 2026.

73, Dan Presley, N7CQR
President, Portland Amateur Radio Club

December Club Gathering – Holiday Get-Together

Instead of a formal club meeting in December, PARC members gathered for the annual Holiday Party at Lucky Lab Pizza on December 15th. More than 60 club members and significant others attended for an evening of in-person QSOs, holiday camaraderie, and good cheer.

The night was filled with handshakes, hugs, food and drinks, lively conversation, and plenty of laughter as members caught up away from the radios. Long-time friends and newer members alike enjoyed the relaxed setting, making it a perfect way to close out the year and celebrate our radio community.





PARC Member Profile – Denny WB7UFJ

Denny, WB7UFJ, is well known in the amateur radio community in Oregon. A long-time member of both the Hoodview Amateur Radio Club (HARC) and the Portland Amateur Radio Club (PARC), Denny has been the Volunteer Examiner (VE) for many of us earning our first license or upgrade, organizes fox hunts every other month at Mount Hood Community College, has presented and volunteered at the annual Sea-Pac convention, and is a familiar face at ham events across the region.

Denny's interest in radio began early with shortwave listening, using a Heathkit receiver and a simple wire antenna strung up in the backyard. After high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and was shore based in Japan. He was trained in Morse code (CW), propagation, and radio theory. After his Navy service he used these skills to take up the hobby of Amateur Radio, licensed in 1977.

Denny enjoyed CW contests. His wife, Joanie, often listened while Denny was operating and eventually learned CW herself so she could better follow the conversations and share the experience. Joanie earned her amateur radio license in 1978, WB7USF, and went on to inspire several other XYs at HARC to become licensed. Denny and Joanie were frequent contesting partners. Denny typically operated during the annual CW Sweepstakes with Joanie logging, while Joanie operated the SSB Sweepstakes with Denny logging.

Until the early 1980s, amateur radio license examinations in the United States were administered exclusively by the FCC at its field offices. As FCC budgets tightened in the late 1970s, the Commission concluded that administering exams in house was becoming too expensive and time consuming, raising concerns that access to new licenses and upgrades could be severely limited. In response, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), working with other amateur radio organizations, collaborated with the FCC to design a system that preserved exam integrity while removing the FCC from day to day testing. The result was the Volunteer Examiner program, formally authorized by the FCC in 1984. Under the new rules, certified amateur operators could administer exams locally, while Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, such as The ARRL VEC, handled accreditation, exam materials, and oversight.

Denny became a Volunteer Examiner in 1984 and has been involved in administering and grading amateur radio examinations ever since. Over more than four decades of VE service, he has volunteered countless hours and witnessed thousands of local hams earn their first license or upgrade. As of November 2025, Denny has served as a VE on 263 separate occasions. His long tenure as a VE may be drawing to a close as traditional paper exam booklets and Scantron answer sheets, used since the program's earliest days, are phased out in favor of computer-based testing. While online testing is often praised as less expensive and potentially more efficient, it cannot fully replicate the in-person atmosphere of a room full of anxious test takers, quiet page turning, and the post exam smiles and high fives that have been part of so many licensing sessions.

Beyond amateur radio, Denny has been an avid geocacher. In 2006, he volunteered as a presenter on geocaching at the Sea-Pac convention, offering guidance and inspiration to fellow hams interested in adding another activity to their radio travels. Hidden geocaches can be found nearly anywhere, and it is not uncommon to discover one near a POTA or SOTA location.

Reflecting his Navy background, Denny has always maintained a strong interest in radio direction finding. HARC has a long-standing relationship with Mount Hood Community College, and Denny has organized transmitter fox hunts on the third Saturday of odd numbered months, beginning at the fisheries building on the north end of the MHCC campus. Some hunts have included pre hunt classroom sessions where tactics and equipment are demonstrated. These hunts have been very popular with PARC members. Denny is quick to note that there is no prize money for finding the fox—but there is also no entry fee to join the hunt.

Over the years, the MHCC office staff and campus security team have become accustomed to seeing Denny early on weekend mornings, hoisting transmitters into trees or crouching behind hedges. While such activities might otherwise raise eyebrows, Denny is typically greeted with a friendly, “Hello Denny. Need any help?” Fox hunting remains a fun and practical radio sport, and the skills learned often prove useful in everyday operating when tracking down sources of radio frequency interference.

Whether it’s the thrill of the geocache hunt or organizing fox hunts by hiding transmitters for others to find, Denny clearly enjoys both the art and the effort of the chase. We are all beneficiaries of his long service and support of HARC, PARC, and the greater Oregon amateur radio community.

Denny and Joanie celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary in May 2007. Denny lost Joanie shortly thereafter, after a period of illness.

East County Fox Hunt – November Recap and January Preview

The latest East County Fox Hunt took place in November at Mt. Hood Community College, with hunters gathering at the Fisheries Building (Parking Lot #22 West) to search for five hidden low-power VHF (2-meter) transmitters placed around the MHCC campus. Six hunters took on the challenge, generating twenty-eight QR code logs by the end of the hunt. All transmitters were successfully found — no foxes or hunters were left behind.

As with past hunts, each transmitter location was marked with a QR code, allowing participants to quickly log their finds using a camera phone. This simple format continues to make the event accessible while encouraging hunters to put their portable antennas and direction-finding skills to the test in a fun, low-pressure environment.

Fox hunts are a great way to learn how your gear performs in real-world conditions, sharpen RDF techniques, and enjoy some friendly competition and camaraderie with fellow hams. A big thank you to Denny, WB7UFJ, for organizing these popular East County events.

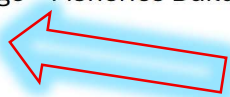
Looking ahead, mark your calendars:

Next East County Fox Hunt

📍 Mt. Hood Community College – Fisheries Building (#22 West Parking Lot)

📅 Saturday, January 17, 2026

🕒 11:00 AM start time



Several low-power 2-meter transmitters will again be hidden around the MHCC campus. This is a receiving-only event, so an amateur radio license is not required — newcomers are always welcome. Denny suggests watching this video of the August 2021 PARC meeting presentation on transmitter hunting by Dale Hunt, WB6BYU: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAjvaiMUBQc>

Please note: the hunt will be canceled if campus conditions are icy and MHCC is closed. For questions or more details, contact Denny WB7UFJ at WB7UFJ@arrl.net

October Club Meeting – Portable HF Antennas: Think Like a Backpacker, George KJ6VU

October’s program featured George KJ6VU, PARC member, host of the *Ham Radio Workbench* podcast, and owner of Sierra Radio Systems, maker of the PackTenna line of portable antennas. George shared practical insights into lightweight HF portable wire antennas, along with the history and experimentation that led to the development of his designs.

Framing the discussion around the mindset of a backpacker, George emphasized simplicity and intentional choices: weighing every item, trimming unnecessary gear, planning thoughtfully, and building a complete system rather than carrying “just in case” extras. Drawing inspiration from the 1935 edition of the ARRL *Radio Amateur’s Handbook*, he highlighted how returning to fundamentals and avoiding over-complication can lead to more effective—and more enjoyable—portable HF operation. *Thank you, George!*

November Club Meeting – Solar Cycle 25, Carl K9LA

In November, PARC welcomed propagation expert Carl K9LA, who joined us from the East Coast—staying up late to share his insights, for which we are very grateful. Licensed since 1961, Carl brings decades of experience in DXing, contesting, antennas, and propagation, along with memorable operating adventures around the world.

Carl reviewed the current status of Solar Cycle 25, noting that it has likely passed its peak but should continue to provide strong conditions on the mid to high HF bands through the fall, including 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. He also stressed the importance of low-noise receive antennas, explaining that the key factor is directivity—often making the difference between simply hearing signals and being able to work them successfully. *Thank you, Carl!*

Portland Area ARES & Emergency Training Nets

Oregon ARES District 1: Daily 7:30 PM 147.32, 442.325, 444.400, 147.040 MHz repeaters <http://www.oregonaresd1.us/wp/>

Clackamas County ARES Sundays at 7 PM 147.120 & 444.225 repeaters, Echo Link AC7QE-R <http://clackamasares.org/>

Washington County ARES Tuesdays at 7 PM (except 3rd Tue) 145.450 MHz repeater <http://washcoares.org/>

Multnomah County ARES Wednesdays at 7 PM 146.840 MHz repeater PM <https://multnomahares.org/>

Clark County ARES Mondays at 7 PM 443.925 MHz repeater <https://www.ccareswa.org/calendar>

Portland Prepares Net Sundays at 8:10 PM 147.040 MHz repeater <https://portlandprepares.org/net-resources/radio/ham-radio-2/practice-opportunities-2/net-net/>

Oregon Traffic and Training Net After 33 years on the air, this net ended on August 29, 2025. See the website for training materials <https://qsl.net/nttn/>
Thank you Dave W7EES for decades of service to this community!

Other Portland Area Nets of Interest

PARC Club Net Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on 146.84 club repeater w7lt.org

Linux User Net every Monday 8:10 PM-9:00 PM 147.32, 442.325, 444.400, 147.040 MHz repeaters <http://kc7nyr.com/linux/>

The Outdoors Net every Thursday 8:05 PM-9:00 PM 147.32, 442.325, 444.400, 147.040 MHz repeaters <https://theoutdoorsnet.net/>

HandiHam Net Sundays at 7:00 PM on 146.84 club repeater

Oak Lodge Net Mondays at 7:30 PM on 147.18 club repeater

Welcome to Our New Members!

We’re excited to welcome all of our new members this quarter to the Portland Amateur Radio Club! Whether you are brand new to the hobby or a seasoned operator, we’re glad to have you with us. Zoom is great for staying connected, but nothing beats sharing stories and slices in-person at our monthly meetings—yes, there’s pizza! Baked goods are also welcome. Come early for the Elmer Help Session and Social Hour before the meeting. It’s a great chance to get acquainted, ask questions, get advice, or share your own experience with others.

CHRIS	W7HFA	PAUL	KC7PMU	JAMES	KD7KTV
ERIC	KG7ESC	BRIAN	KI7SXH	MARCIA	KF7NKH
MATHEW	KC8YTS	IAN	KM7CAL	JOSEPH	W3MBG
TERESA	KM7BWM				

ARRL HOA Antenna Bill

The ARRL has launched a nationwide effort aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles. This effort follows the reintroduction of the Amateur

Radio Emergency Preparedness Act in February 2025. The bipartisan bills -- H.R.1094 in the House and S.459 in the Senate -- are designed to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas, even when such antennas are hidden in trees or look like flagpoles. All are encouraged to contact their federal representative and express their support. The ARRL has tried to make this contact process easier by creating a pre-drafted letter you can use by just entering your call sign and pushing the submit button at www.arrl.org/HOA.

Summits on the Air: Members Reach New Heights in 2025

Summits on the Air (SOTA) continues to thrive in the Pacific Northwest, and 2025 was another strong year for PARC participation. One of the great advantages of operating from our region is geography: unlike flatter parts of the country, where summit activations can require long drives or limited options, the PNW is blessed with dozens of qualifying peaks within a relatively short driving distance. From coastal hills to Cascade volcanoes, SOTA opportunities are never far away.

The matrix shown here highlights PARC members who activated summits, chased summits, or did both during calendar year 2025. It's a simple view of participation, but behind each checkmark is a hike, a setup in the wind or rain, and a pile of QSOs that helped bring the program to life.

One of the most encouraging takeaways from the 2025 data is that every PARC member who activated a summit also contributed as a chaser. On average, activators chased about five SOTA activators for every summit they activated themselves, reinforcing the cooperative spirit that makes SOTA work. Chasers provide the essential audience that turns a summit activation into a success, and many members focused exclusively on chasing still played a key role in supporting activators throughout the year.

Several PARC members were especially active on summits in 2025 (totals as of December 5, 2025):

- Jeff, WJ7V — 137 activations
- Etienne, K7ATN — 74 activations
- Jeff, WX7OR — 72 activations
- Greg, K7AGL — 50 activations

In addition, Dan, N7CQR, and Nate, NA7EE, both reached double-digit activations, providing consistent activity throughout the year. These operators represent an extraordinary amount of effort—planning trips, hiking, setting up stations, and making contacts in all kinds of conditions.

A special note of appreciation goes to Etienne, K7ATN, who not only logged significant SOTA activity himself but also serves as the SOTA Association Manager for Oregon. That volunteer role involves maintaining summit information, supporting activators, publishing the quarterly PNW SOTA newsletter, and helping keep the program running smoothly across our region. Thank you for your service to the broader SOTA community.

Parks on the Air: Members Go Portable in 2025

Parks on the Air (POTA) continues to be one of the most popular organized operating activities in amateur radio—both here in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. In 2025, PARC members showed just how adaptable, welcoming, and downright fun POTA can be.

		Activated	Chased
KEN	AI7LF		✓
GREG	K7AGL	✓	✓
ETIENNE	K7ATN	✓	✓
KEN	K7BXI	✓	✓
DAVID	K7DHZ	✓	✓
KIM	K7IMA	✓	✓
KATHLEEN	K7KER	✓	✓
BILL	K7WXW	✓	✓
MICHAEL	KF6YAL		✓
JOSEPH	KK7KDE	✓	✓
SEAN	KK7OVF	✓	✓
LAUREN	KK7PBA	✓	✓
DAVID	KK7VKR	✓	✓
DAN	N7CQR	✓	✓
ANDREW	N7UL		✓
NATE	NA7EE	✓	✓
BENTON	NX7O	✓	✓
JOSEPH	W3MBG	✓	✓
BOB	W7JNM	✓	✓
ADDISON	WF7Q		✓
JEFF	WJ7V	✓	✓
JEFF	WX7OR	✓	✓

The matrix shown here highlights PARC members who activated parks, chased park activations, or did both during calendar year 2025. Each checkmark represents time on the air, radios set up in the field (or in the car), and contacts made from parks near and far (*Data as of December 5, 2025*).

One of POTA's greatest strengths is its flexibility.

There's no single "right" way to participate. Sometimes, POTA means "PLOTa" - operating from the parking lot of a park, often from the warmth and comfort of a vehicle during the Pacific Northwest's classic *liquid sunshine*. Other times, it's a full hike-in setup, or even combining POTA and SOTA from the same location to earn credit in both programs.

And of course, many members enjoy chasing POTA activators from home, working parks across North America - or around the world - on HF.

			Activated	Chased				Activated	Chased
KEN	A17LF		✓	✓	LAUREN	KK7PBA			✓
ARVIND	AJ7AY		✓	✓	TERRY	KK7UGD			✓
ALAN	AJ7EE		✓	✓	DAVID	KK7VKR	✓		✓
GREGORY	K6GAB		✓	✓	DAN	KK7VYJ			✓
GREG	K7AGL		✓	✓	MIKEL	KM7CBI			✓
ETIENNE	K7ATN		✓	✓	JAMIE	KW7WP			✓
KEN	K7BXI			✓	KEVIN	N6KVN	✓		✓
DAVID	K7DHZ			✓	DALE	N7BBU			✓
KIM	K7IMA		✓	✓	DAN	N7CQR	✓		✓
KATHLEEN	K7KER		✓	✓	JOEL	N7LF			✓
BILL	K7WXW			✓	ANDREW	N7UL	✓		✓
TERRY	K7XA			✓	NATE	NA7EE	✓		✓
JIM	K8SAT		✓	✓	KERRY	NE7B			✓
PAUL	KE7OLU			✓	BENTON	NX7O			✓
MICHAEL	KF6YAL		✓	✓	JOSEPH	W3MBG			✓
KIRK	KG0INS			✓	ROSS	W6FG			✓
MICHAEL	KI7QIB			✓	MIKE	W6STR			✓
LAURA	KI7ZZQ			✓	JOE	W7COM			✓
GEORGE	KJ6VU		✓	✓	BOB	W7JNM	✓		✓
DARCY	KJ7ONL			✓	RAOUL	W7RPS			✓
STEVE	KK7GPR		✓	✓	ADDISON	WF7Q	✓		✓
JOSEPH	KK7KDE		✓	✓	JEFF	WJ7V	✓		✓
MICHAEL	KK7KKR		✓	✓	JEFF	WX7OR	✓		✓
SEAN	KK7OVF		✓	✓					

POTA activity is remarkably

transparent and easy to follow. Activations and chases are well posted and tracked at parksontheair.com, making it simple to see who's on the air, what park they're activating, and how to make contact.

It's also arguably the most "YouTubed" activity in amateur radio today. From activation walkthroughs and antenna experiments to stunning park scenery, there's no shortage of videos showcasing how different operators approach POTA and inspiring others to give it a try.

One of the quirks and joys of POTA is that it's not uncommon to activate a park that's inside a larger park, which itself sits within an even larger park. When that happens, operators may earn credit for multiple parks at once - the legendary "3'fer." These layered activations add an extra bit of strategy and fun to site selection and planning.

In general, any state or federal owned park with published boundaries, often available on a park's official website, can qualify for POTA. If you have a favorite park that isn't yet on the official POTA list, there's a path forward:

- Encourage the park's managing agency to publish boundary information
- Send that information to the POTA team for review

If approved, you might even become the first activator of that park, a distinction that's permanently noted on the park's main page on the POTA website.

As the matrix shows, PARC members participated in POTA in many ways during 2025. Some focused on activating, some on chasing, and many did both. Together, these efforts helped keep parks active on the air and strengthened the broader POTA community.

Contesting: Members are Competitive on the Air in 2025

Radio contesting has been part of amateur radio culture almost from the beginning. Organized operating events date back to the late 1920s, when early international competitions encouraged operators to stretch their stations, sharpen their skills, and see just how far their signals could travel. Nearly a century later, contests remain one of the most energetic and accessible ways to get on the air.

Today, contests serve many purposes. Some operators enjoy the challenge of holding a frequency and running stations, others prefer search-and-pounce hunting for new multipliers, while many simply join in casually to make a handful of QSOs - often with rare DX stations that are easier to work during contest weekends. In fact, many DXpeditions deliberately time trips to remote or hard-to-reach locations to coincide with major contests, knowing thousands of stations will be listening.

One often-overlooked aspect of contesting is the importance of submitting a log, even if participation was light. Logs that don't compete for awards still serve as check logs, helping verify contacts for others and improving the overall integrity of the results. A few QSOs still matter.

		ARRL September VHF	CQ WW SSB	CQ WW CW	ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes	ARRL November CW Sweepstakes	ARRL International EME Contest	IARU HF World Championship	ARRL International Digital	CQ WW RTTY	7th Call Area QSO Party	ARRL 10 Meter
GREGORY	K6GAB							✓				
ETIENNE	K7ATN	✓					✓					
SEAN	KK7OVF		✓		✓				✓			✓
DAVID	KK7VKR		✓		✓							
JAMIE	KW7WP		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
ANDREW	N7UL		✓									

PARC members submitted logs to a wide range of contests in 2025, as shown in the accompanying matrix:

- **ARRL September VHF** – Focused on VHF and higher bands, emphasizing grids, propagation, and rover activity.
- **CQ World Wide SSB** – One of the largest radio events on the planet, filling the bands with global activity.
- **CQ World Wide CW** – A high-speed Morse code counterpart to the SSB event, demanding sharp ears and timing.
- **ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW & Phone)** – A uniquely North American contest emphasizing accuracy, endurance, and exchange handling.
- **ARRL International EME Contest** – Pushing the limits by bouncing signals off the Moon itself.
- **IARU HF World Championship** – Celebrating the international amateur radio community and national societies.
- **CQ World Wide RTTY** – Digital contesting at scale, rewarding precision and consistency.
- **7th Call Area QSO Party** – Highlighting the western states and provinces.
- **ARRL 10 Meter Contest** – A fast-paced event when solar conditions cooperate.

Among these, CQ WW SSB and the ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes were the most popular contests for PARC members in 2025. Jamie, KW7WP, stood out as the most active contester of the year, submitting logs to more events than any other PARC member. Etienne, K7ATN, deserves special recognition for participating in the ARRL International EME Contest, successfully bouncing RF off the Moon - an achievement that represents some of the most technically demanding operating in amateur radio.

Beyond scores and certificates, contesting builds operating confidence, improves station skills, and connects local operators to the worldwide amateur radio community. Whether chasing multipliers for a weekend, testing antennas, or simply enjoying the buzz of a busy band, contesting continues to be a vibrant part of amateur radio on-air activity.

As solar conditions and operating interests evolve, contest weekends remain a reliable invitation to turn on the radio, call CQ, and join the action. Look for upcoming contests, along with links to the official sponsor sites and rules, at the great WA7BNM Contest Calendar. <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

Dits and Dahs – Members share Their Radio Adventures from 2025 and More

Kathleen, K7KER

In May, 2025, Tony and I took a vacation to the Lake District National Park in England. We had planned to do a lot of SOTA and POTA there and I had contacted the SOTA Association Manager (Mark, M0NOM) and arranged to get together with him to do some activations. I was hoping to meet with one of my classmates (Alex, G7KSE) from a CW Academy course I took in 2002, but he wasn't sure he had the time (he lived at the other end of the park). We did manage to get in a couple of SOTA QSOs, though.

One day Mark suggested we go for a drive so he could show us another part of the park. We drove up, up, up along some REALLY narrow, rocky roads, for about 40 minutes. As we were approaching the top of an incline I looked up and noticed a lone figure standing there. As we got closer, I realized it was my friend Alex. He and Mark had arranged to meet there as a surprise! We didn't do any SOTA, but had a great time visiting and exploring the Hardknott Fort archeological site, then headed down the other side of the pass (down even steeper hills) to a brewery and had a beer.

Brion, W7CBK

I had almost given up on amateur radio because I couldn't reach anyone. My house is on the SW side of Mt. Scott and sits in a low spot, so I have a hard time even reaching the PARC repeater on 2m just over a mile away. HF is out of the question until I get creative with an antenna. But nosing around the dial one Tuesday night, I stumbled on a net at 146.72 and the TXRX sounded like it was just across the street. I was very pleased to discover this, and was waiting for my turn to check in when I noticed everybody else kept saying they were down around Eugene. I was confused. When it was my turn to check in, I told them I was in Happy Valley, and they were just as surprised.

It was the 50W W7PXL repeater 100 miles away in Junction City, run by the Valley Radio Club. I asked if it was linked to other repeaters, possibly closer to me, and they said it was not. I guess the moral of the story is you may not reach where you expect, but you'll surely reach something.

Etienne, K7ATN

My best QSO ever was DX with Germany...portable from Washington State. Nothing remarkable about that. I was running 100W - again, nothing special. Mode was CW - not surprising. Slightly unusual perhaps was that I was battery powered from a SOTA summit (W7W/LC-164, Prune Hill in Camas) and all the gear was carried to the operating position.

Considering all of this, the antenna I used was surprising - a 19 element Yagi. What propagation path would make sense with all this? Over the pole? Long path via New Zealand? No, the path was much longer - 700,000 km. This was a "QRP" EME QSO. With Jan-DL9KR doing the heavy lifting with a 16 Yagi array and 1500W. Jan kindly described our contact as "memorable" despite his nearly 50 years of 70cm EME experience. It certainly was memorable for me.



Lauren, KK7PBA

In 2025, I did a few more SOTA activations (mostly with K7ATN), including Tumala Mountain and Lookout Mountain (some photos attached). I also completed my MCARES ARRO training and upgraded my license to Amateur Extra. Next year, I'm tackling Morse code and hopefully more summits!



Ylian, KK7VZT

After first getting my license last year, in 2025 I have been working on my new HAM radio software to make it easier to do voice and packet radio on VHF, the software is called Handi-Talky Commander (It's free, search "HTCommander" on the Internet, you find it right away). Not that you need a license for this, but I did setup a Meshtastic and Meshcore node this year and connected it to my home automation. Lastly, I very much enjoyed attending PARC meetings and the Christmas party. Thank you for being such a great group. See you in 2026!

Raoul, W7RPS

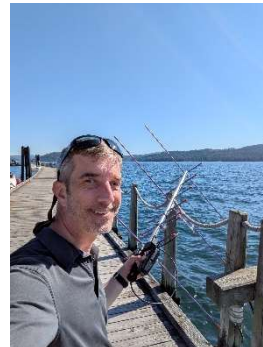
Can you imagine operating FM, SSB, AM, and DV modes on the gigahertz bands 1.2 GHz, 2.4 GHz, and 5.6 GHz? That's what Paul KI7ADC and I did this fall. Now add to that Amateur TV; live, full-motion video between the two stations. That made us smile, a smile that could be seen all the way to the other station!

Sean, KK7OVF

2025 marked my second full year as a licensed amateur, and I'm still very much hooked on satellites after my first QSO with N7XCZ - standing in the snow and dark in January 2024, pointing my antenna at the visible ISS as it crossed the sky.

This year I presented to the club on successfully working FM satellites, completed Worked All States via satellite voice, logged my 300th VUCC satellite grid, and did some satellite roving along the Oregon Coast and in Idaho (CN73, CN74, CN76, CN86, and DN17). One of the real highlights was making contacts with astronauts Nichole Ayers, KJ5GWI, and Mike Finke, KE5AIT, aboard the ISS this summer. I also really enjoyed introducing fellow members to satellite operating and helping them make their first satellite contacts during club POTA outings.

I was happy to step into the role of newsletter editor this year, with a goal to inform, inspire, and celebrate our members. I truly appreciate the support, camaraderie, and shared enthusiasm of PARC hams. 73

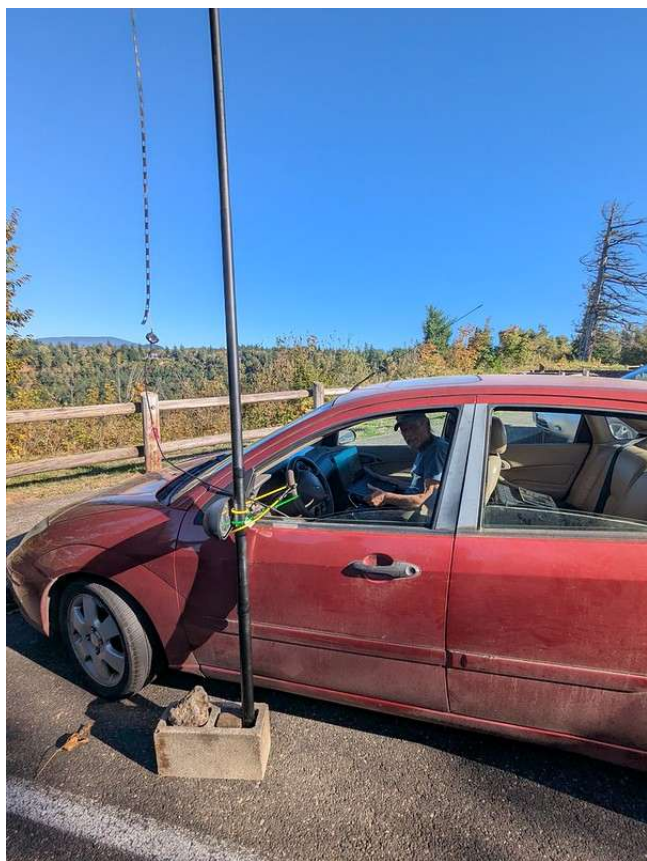


Finding My Voice on 10 Meters: Adventures in POTA Hunting and Activating

A featured story by: David Anderson, KK7VKR

It didn't take long after receiving my Technician's license on 20 September 2024 to hunt my first POTA on FT8 September 27th with K8DLD at US-1516 Ludington State Park, WI. For almost two months I had fun hunting POTAs on 10m using just FT8 and FT4. My Elmer Andrew (N7UL) told me I really should try SSB too, so on November 13th I took the plunge, and away I went! My first park activation then took place on 12 Jan 2025 on Hood River Mountain in US-0731 Columbia River Gorge (Scenic Area). Transmitting at just 10w and eight FT8 and 13 SSB QSOs later I was on my way to more activations. Before 10m really quiets down my goal is to improve my numbers: 17 Entities Hunted; 533 P2P; and 665 Parks Hunted.

I started working Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area (US-9978) because it was easily accessible and the propagation wasn't too bad. Then I switched to activating the Portland Women's Forum State Park (US-9979). The difference between our noisy Lents neighborhood where we live and the Forum is night and day. The State Park rangers and Sheriff Deputies who check in on the park are used to me now and seldom stop by and ask what I'm doing, but visitors do frequently ask what I'm fishing for.



Sometimes HAMs stop by to say, "Hi," after working Larch Mountain. It's always fun to chew the fat with guys who know what you are doing! And then it's back to FT8. I always carry my laptop with me so I can now use HAMRS, or use FT8 if SSB propagation isn't doing so well.

I have a method to attach my 31-foot kite pole from which I hang the half wave J-pole. The bungee cord gets looped around the steering wheel first. The long end gets wrapped counter clockwise around the pole, up and over the mirror stem and back to the window where the two ends meet. During my first attempt at activating the Women's Forum a breeze blew my pole over into the parking lot. I didn't activate the park that day, for obvious safety reasons! A temporary quick fix solution which I now use is the cinder block, sometimes with additional weight to keep the pole in a more or less vertical position! If the wind is blowing too much, I'd recommend working Guy W Talbot State Park (US-2830), or Bridal Veil Falls State Park (US-12747) from the parking lot since the surrounding tall trees block much of the wind. When activating parks in the Gorge, like US-2850 Rooster Rock, or US-2862 Viento State Park, don't forget to activate parks: US-0731 Columbia River Gorge and US-3424 Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail; and if you are within 100' of the river itself activate US-4572 Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and US-4576 Oregon National Historic Trail. The Park 2 Park points really add up when activating a multi-park location. Hunters also love a 5-park activation, and they will keep you busy!



What's my favorite park? I really like the Portland Women's Forum (a 3-park activation with US-3424 Ice Age Floods and US-0731 Columbia River Gorge) because the propagation up there is generally so good. But for scenery I have to say working at river level on a calm fall day at Viento State Park (US-2862) is my favorite local park, and down by the river it is a 5-park activation.



The place I would like to get back to is Mount Lowe (W7O/CN-021) in the Mount Hood National Forest (US-4381). It's a short walk to the summit, and the view is awesome. SOTA and POTA activations make this great. In the fall you may see migrating hawks and other birds soaring past the summit. Expect the wind to be blowing up there though.

I'd like to thank my Elmer Andrew (N7UL) for getting me interested in Ham Radio.

I think it would be great to have a regional 10m POTA party where we head out to regional parks and spend some time activating parks and getting hunters to hunt us in parks. I know that can be predicted with topographical maps, but sometimes that just doesn't work, for example I activated Rooster Rock State Park (US-2850) on both Dec 4th and 6th. Andrew Stern (N7UL) heard me on the 4th, but not the 6th even though I was parked in the same spot and had my antenna attached to the same fire pit. I had 32 QSOs on the 4th and 70 on the 6th. I do enjoy being hunted by local Hams. There have been many memorable moments this year: working satellites with Sean Borgerson (KK7OVF), working Australia using 10w, getting Macedonia as a first QSO on a recent Women's Forum activation, and so many others. POTA on, and hunt me on 10m.

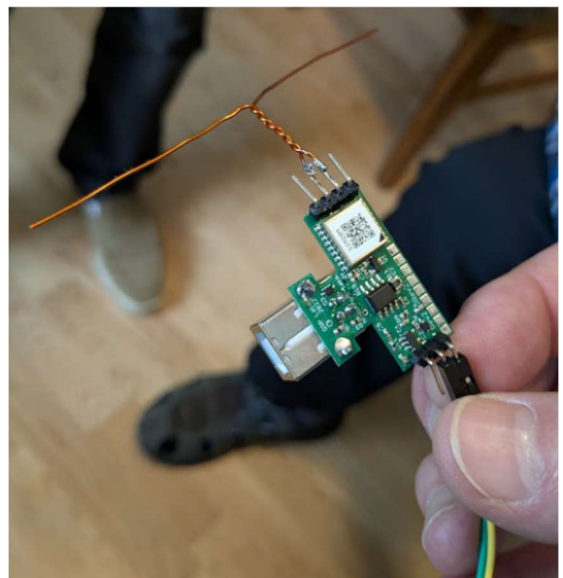


PARC Taking Flight: Amateur Radio Pico Balloon - Update

At the September club meeting, members were introduced to a new idea for PARC: launching our own amateur radio Pico balloon. Following the meeting, an email went out to interested members outlining next steps, including a link to a short video showing a Pico balloon that crossed the United States before being recovered in Nova Scotia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FED-p5CSBkc>

Pico balloons are small, lightweight balloons that typically float between 40,000 and 45,000 feet. They can remain aloft for days, weeks, or even months while carrying tiny payloads weighing just 10–15 grams. For perspective, a U.S. nickel weighs five grams. These balloons are well suited for APRS, WSPR, or simple telemetry experiments. While Pico balloons are rarely recovered, they provide extended opportunities for tracking, experimentation, and global fun.

An online kickoff planning session was held in October, followed by many emails among the working group and two in-person build sessions at the QTH of Ken, AI7LF. This project offers PARC an opportunity to try something new, bring together a wide range of technical skills from across the club, and perhaps even put Portland on the amateur radio ballooning map.



Project Progress

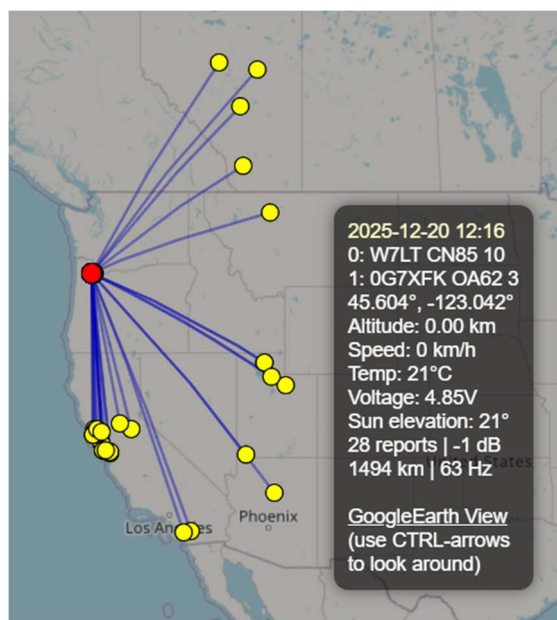
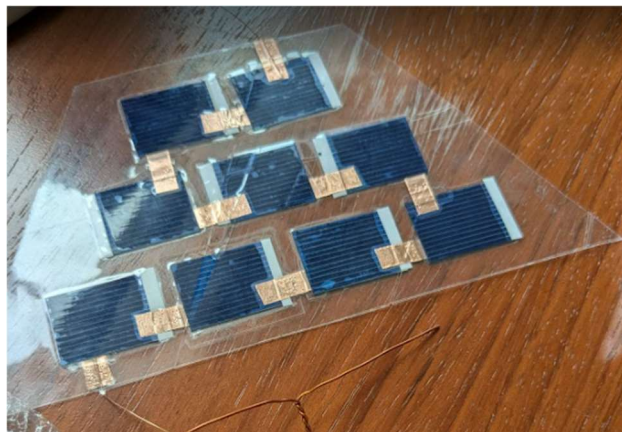
The team has been busy on multiple fronts. Activities to date include testing and stretching balloons; sourcing lifting gas (with helium selected for now after hydrogen proved too expensive); evaluating the physical structure of the transmitter unit; learning the programming parameters and customization options for the tracker; and designing solar cell structures to power the payload during flight.

The balloon envelope weighs approximately 41 grams.

The transmitter device (see <https://qrp-labs.com/u4b.html>) weighs just 1.8 grams and will

transmit WSPR on 20 meters using a half-wave wire dipole made from 36-gauge red enameled magnet wire. The GPS antenna uses a heavier-gauge wire formed into a twisted dipole. Power is provided by solar cells (not rigid panels) arranged into a three-sided pyramid designed to better capture sunlight during the low sun-elevation angles typical of winter operations. The target weight for the solar pyramid structure is approximately 8 grams.

The transmitter and solar assembly are suspended below the balloon using about 17 feet of lightweight braided fishing line. The 20-meter dipole consists of two legs: one supported upward by the suspension string toward the balloon, and the other hanging freely below. The combined weight of the string and antenna is approximately 1.5 grams.



Solar Power Challenges

The solar power system has proven to be the most challenging aspect of the build. The design goal is for each face of the pyramid to deliver approximately 4 volts at 100+ milliamps. Each individual solar cell is rated at 0.5 volts, measures roughly 1.5 inches by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, and weighs 0.45 grams. To reduce overall weight, the team is cutting the cells in half. This maintains the required voltage while halving the weight, at the cost of reduced current - an acceptable tradeoff for this application.

Testing and Early Results

Recent transmitter testing has shown promising results. The GPS is getting good satellite lock. The 27-milliamp WSPR transmissions have been received across the country. Each transmission occurs twice, two minutes apart, and includes

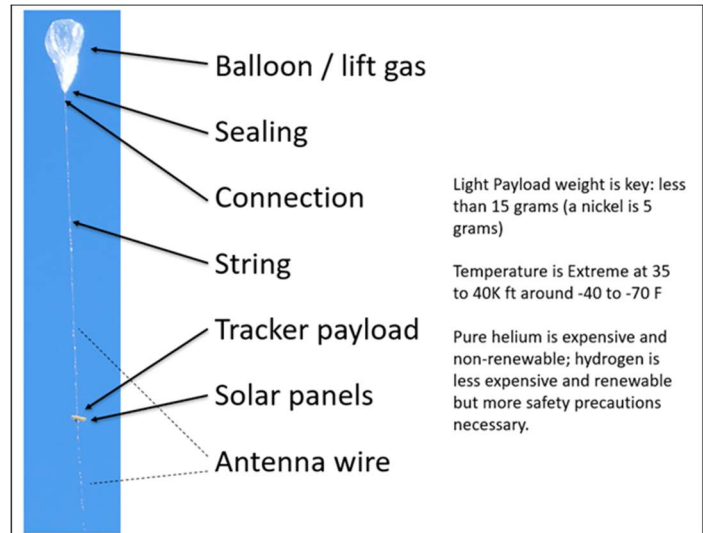
encoded telemetry and sensor data. Several third-party platforms automatically extract this information from WSPR servers and convert it into easy-to-use tracking and performance data.

The Team

This project has benefited from contributions across the club:

- Paul, KI7ADC, has been leading work on the solar cell structure.
- Bob, WB7ALH, has been evaluating transmitter capability and performance, and learning the software customization interface.

- Tom, KM7BLP, researched and recommended power components, provided precision solar lux measurement equipment, and offered technical guidance.
- Sean, KK7OVF, has tested and stretched balloons and prepared lift gas calculations.
- Ken, AI7LF, constructed antennas, performed live transmission testing of the tracker, and will complete the final build using his under-the-microscope soldering skills.
- Andrew, N7UL, Dave, K7DHz, and Mike, KM7CBI have contributed to project discussions and planning.

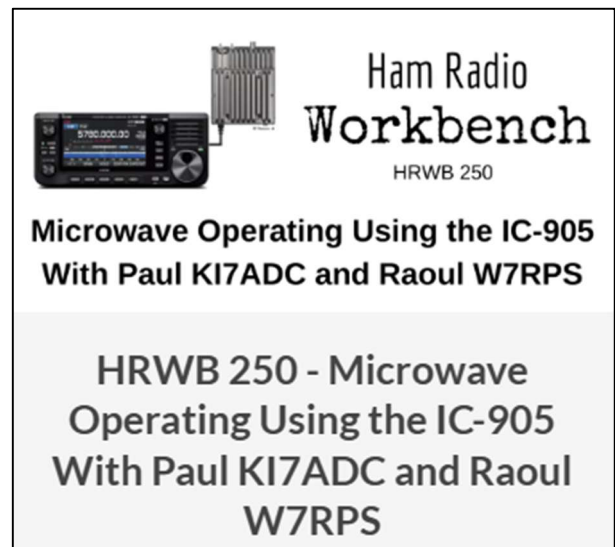


More updates to come as the team continues testing and moves closer to launch. January is still the goal!

High-Frequency Fame: Paul & Raoul Join the HRWB Podcast

Paul, KI7ADC, and Raoul, W7RPS, were recently featured guests on the popular Ham Radio Workbench (HRWB) podcast. Many PARC members will recall their impressive GHz-band demonstration at the club's September POTA event at Rooster Rock State Park, where they transmitted live color video and voice using the Icom IC-905. Their setup turned a lot of heads, and allowed a number of us in attendance to make across the park QSOs via amateur TV.

George, KJ6VU, host of the HRWB podcast and an active PARC member—was so inspired by what he saw at Rooster Rock that he has since joined the small but growing community of GHz operators in the Northwest. In the episode, Paul and Raoul walk through their station design, equipment choices, operating techniques, and lessons learned. Their enthusiasm makes it easy to appreciate the fun and challenge of experimenting above 1 GHz.



Give the episode a listen using your favorite podcast platform or head directly to the website at <https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>

National Radio-Orienteering Championships Return to Oregon

The USA Radio Orienteering (ARDF) Championships are coming to Oregon in 2026. This marks the first time a national-level ARDF championship has come to the greater Portland area since 1999, when the IARU Region 2 ARDF Championship was held in Forest Park. More recent USA Championships have taken place in Texas, Michigan, and North Carolina, making the 2026 Oregon event a welcome return to the Pacific Northwest. Mark your calendars for August 12th through 16th.

This is an ARRL-sanctioned radio orienteering event. As part of that sanctioning, the ARRL ARDF Committee provides support to event organizers, including assigning experienced consultants, assisting with planning and best practices, and helping identify sources of specialized equipment and volunteers.

As communicated by the ARRL, results from the USA Championships are used to determine which competitors are invited to represent the United States at the biennial ARDF World Championships. As a result, the Oregon event is expected to attract dozens of highly experienced competitors seeking qualification for Team USA. At the same time, the **USA Championships are open to everyone** and are an excellent entry point for newcomers to the sport. Introductory classes and ARDF practice sessions are often offered just prior to the competition, providing beginners an opportunity to learn directly from some of the most accomplished competitors in the country.



Participation is open to anyone, of any age, who can safely navigate wooded terrain for several kilometers while carrying hand-held radio equipment. No amateur radio license is required, and all are welcome.

A wealth of experience stands behind the 2026 event. Event Directors are Dale, WB6BYU, and Charles, NZØI. Dale was a member of the first USA team to compete at the World ARDF Championships in 1998. Charles served as a course designer for the 2025 USA Championships in North Carolina, is a medalist at prior USA Championships, and currently serves as the USA's ARDF Co-Coordinator to the IARU.

The event is hosted by Mt. Hood Orienteering, an Oregon-based 501(c)(3) organization that promotes, organizes, and provides education

in the sport of orienteering. Mt. Hood-O was founded by Tony, KA7AHP, and Kathleen, K7KER, both active members of the Portland Amateur Radio Club.

Registration will open in the Spring of 2026. For more information, contact Kathleen Kerns, K7KER.

Also check out these related links:

<https://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-direction-finding> <https://www.mthoodo.org/>
<http://www.homingin.com/farsnews.html> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-tLH0HzO8g>

Getting the Call Right: Tips for Exchanging Callsigns in Weak or Messy Conditions

One of the most frequent tasks in amateur radio is exchanging callsigns accurately. It sounds simple—until QRM, QSB, weak signals, pileups, or summer field-day tent noise get in the way. PARC has historically operated QRP (low power) for field day which can also contribute to the challenge of completing a voice QSO. Whether we are scrapping for the minimum contacts to activate a park or summit, or trying to get logged by a distant station halfway around the globe, how we communicate our callsigns can make the difference between a smooth contact and an endless tangle of repeats. This article provides practical tips for both sides of the QSO—the *primary operator* (the one trying to pull a call out of the noise) and the *secondary operator* (the one trying to be correctly logged).

Every time a callsign fragment must be repeated, the odds of confusion increase. Under difficult conditions, both operators want to:

- Minimize the time needed to confirm the call
- Avoid sending unnecessary information
- Clearly indicate what is right—and what still needs fixing
- Prevent the other operator from hearing “corrections” that aren’t corrections at all

Mastering these small habits will speed up the exchange, help avoid busted calls in contests / awards / activations, and reduce operator fatigue. It is helpful to know the names for the structure and format of your call sign or call signs you will likely run across. In the enclosed figure you can see the most common structure of a call with the prefix, suffix, and number, as well as the common format of call signs as 2x3, 2x2,

etc. Special event stations, DXpeditions, and other countries may come in different formats (2x1, etc.) and also have the number in a different position or even more than one number.

When signals are weak or band conditions are rough, the primary operator's job is to steer the correction process. Experienced operators guide

the other station toward filling in just the missing pieces. We will be using the currently unassigned call sign WW7ABC to run through some examples.

Let's walk through examples. The secondary operator responds to a call (DX, SOTA/POTA, field day, etc.) with their call sign using standard ITU phonetics, "Whiskey Whiskey Seven Alpha Bravo Charlie." In the enclosed table are examples of how this may play out depending on what part of the call sign the primary operator has heard (or thinks they heard).

Call Sign Structure	Call Sign Format
	WW7ABC 2 x 3 WW7AB 2 x 2 W7ABC 1 x 3 W7AB 1 x 2

Primary Operator Replies *	Secondary Operator Responds *	Why?
W?	WW7ABC	Primary operator doesn't have enough to confirm so secondary op repeats full call
I've got WW7	ABC	Primary operator got the prefix, just needs suffix. Primary might follow up WW7ABC? to confirm and secondary would say roger, roger (don't repeat full call sign - primary might think you are correcting something)
WW, what's the number?	Seven, Seven	Primary wants to work out call in pieces and wants the number for now. In addition to repeating the number, secondary op might also then count it out... one, two, three, four, five, six, seven
I've got ABC, what's the prefix	WW7, WW7	Primary has the suffix and just needs the prefix. Secondary only provides missing piece (if secondary repeats full call primary might think you are correcting suffix as well)
I've got W7AB?	2 by 3, 2 by 3, WW7ABC, WW7ABC	Secondary is providing context to the primary that the call is a 2 by 3 so primary knows to look for more prefix and suffix.
WW7ADC?	ABC, ABC	Primary has prefix correct, so secondary focuses on suffix only - putting emphasis on the 'bravo.' Avoid repeating the prefix if primary has it correct
Your suffix ADC? Confirm ADC?	Negative, negative. ABC, Alpha Boston Charlie, Alpha Brazil Charlie	In some cases it can help to use alternative phonetics. Try to use everyday words and have these planned ahead of time.
* Above we used just the call sign letters to save space, but both parties should always use standard ITU phonetics		

The table of examples doesn't cover every situation but tries to provide examples to demonstrate a few operating principles to add in efficient communication when band conditions are not in your favor:

- Focus on the specific information that needs clarification to enhance communication efficiency. Knowing the common structure and format off a call sign can help put the pieces together.

- Consider using the phrases, “roger, roger” or “negative, negative,” to give the other operator a clear signal of when something is correct or incorrect.
- Avoid repeating the portion of the call sign (prefix, suffix) the other operator has correct. Sending it again may be interpreted as a correction and force the other operator to re-evaluate what they already logged correctly.
- Use standard phonetics as the norm but sometimes when the other operator is struggling with one letter in particular, switch to high-contrast phonetics like, “Boston,” or “Brazil.” Country names are a favorite, A – “America,” M – “Mexico,” because they are generally recognizable by operators for whom English is not their native language.

Good operating technique isn’t just for DXpeditions and contests—it makes every day QSOs smoother and more enjoyable. Take these ideas for a spin the next time you’re on the air whether you find yourself in the role of primary or secondary operator. Try a few different phonetics, practice only sending or requesting the missing pieces, and listen to how experienced operators guide the exchange. You’ll be amazed how quickly it becomes habit. A little practice now makes those weak-signal field day contacts a whole lot easier.

Editor’s note – Thank you to Randy, ND0C, an avid QRP contester and satellite rover with QTH in Minnesota, for reviewing, commenting, and overall improving this article.

Official 2026 SOTA Challenge

The SOTA Management Team has announced a new activation challenge for 2026. The challenge was introduced by Andrew, VK3ARR, on the SOTA Reflector in December and is aimed at encouraging greater use of 2 m and 70 cm using CW or SSB. Currently, these modes and bands account for less than 1% of all SOTA activator QSOs. The previous SOTA Challenge, held in 2024, focused on increasing activity on 10 meters.

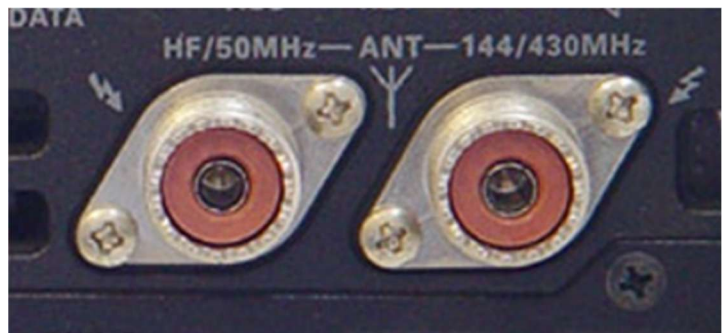
The 2026 Challenge runs alongside the existing SOTA program and does not replace any current rules or operating practices. It begins at 00:00 UTC on January 1, 2026 and concludes at 23:59 UTC on December 31, 2026. Points will be awarded based on QSO distance and the number of summits activated or contacted, with six-digit Maidenhead grid squares playing a role in scoring.

Editor’s note: Several all-band, all-mode radios are well suited to this challenge, including the IC-705, FT-991A, FT-857D, and FT-817/818. For operators interested in experimenting with CW on VHF/UHF at minimal cost (with some light software modification), a \$27 Quansheng UV-K5 HT paired with a \$13 CW paddle is an option. (<https://reflector.sota.org.uk/t/modifying-a-quansheng-for-cw/39247>)

The Unsung Heroes of Portable Radio: Coax Connector Care

Operating portable in the great outdoors is more popular than ever. Many PARC members take advantage of the Pacific Northwest’s incredible landscape to activate parks, summits, lighthouses, and more. The number of radios available to today’s operators that lend themselves to portable use is greater than ever, whether it is an HT, QRP kit radio, or a full feature retail rig from the biggest manufacturers.

All of these radios have something in common... permanently installed coax connectors. PL-259, SMA, BNC, etc. are designed to provide a solid connection and move all of those electrons from the radio to the antenna. Moisture, dirt, and repeated connects and disconnects can play havoc on these indispensable little workhorses.



It's no small task to replace these RF coax connectors when things go awry and if you are not ready to tear down your own radio to install a new connector it can be an expensive proposition to engage a radio repair professional. Let's give them the attention they deserve for supporting our outdoor operating and extend their operating life for as long as we can.

Coax connectors have recommended lifecycles by their manufacturers for the number of connects and disconnects. 1,000 cycles might be a good rule of thumb – an avid POTA operator using multiple antennas might hit the 500-mark in just a couple of years.

So, what can you do? Well, two easy and economical approaches can greatly extend the life of your portable radio's coax connector.

- **Adaptors** – Use sacrificial adaptors. Use an adapter as the “wear surface.” If your radio has a male BNC, install a short male-to-female BNC adapter and leave it in place. Now all your daily connecting and disconnecting happens on the adapter—not the radio's own connector. If the adapter wears out, replacing it costs about \$10, not a radio repair bill. Amazon can be great but make sure you get a quality adaptor like those available at HRO locally, or online at Mini-Circuits, DX Engineering, or your other preferred amateur radio component retailer.
- **Cleaning** – All of that portable use puts your connector at risk of moisture and dirt. When a cleaning is needed, start by using compressed air to blow out any loose earth elements. Then use 100% isopropyl alcohol and a soft foam swab to clean the connector (cotton swabs are more prone to snag on the connector center pin or leave fibers behind). We don't want to introduce new moisture so make sure your isopropyl is 100% and contains no water. Clean all of the surfaces and then blow air again to speed the alcohol evaporation process. *Be safe – all power and batteries should be disconnected from your radio during this process!!*

A few minutes and a few dollars of preventive care can keep your connectors reliable and your radio on the air far longer than you might expect.

Celebrating the Volunteers Who Keep PARC Running

Amateur radio clubs don't run on electricity alone - they run on volunteers. Every event we hold, every repeater we rely on, every meeting, net, and community activity we enjoy is possible because dedicated members step forward to serve. Their time, energy, and steady leadership make PARC the vibrant, welcoming organization it is.

This year, we extend our sincere thanks to our officers and board - Dan N7CQR, Ken AI7LF, Nick KI7PTT, Hailey KN6NVO, Dan KK7VYJ, Wayne WA7NE, Pete W7PR, Jim K8SAT, and Pat W7PAT - who have guided the club with enthusiasm and care.

We are also grateful to the volunteers who keep us connected week after week. Our weekly club net on the Larch Mountain repeater depends on skilled and dependable Net Control operators, and we thank John KD7BCY and Richard KK7JAW for keeping the net running smoothly.

Behind the scenes, our repeater system (so central to daily activity and public service) benefits from the expertise and dedication of a broad team. We thank Pete W7PR, George KJ6VU, Ron Theod, John KD7BCY, Joel N7LF, Aaron KD7VDG, Mark KC7DTE, and Wayne WA7NE for their work maintaining, improving, and safeguarding this critical infrastructure.

To everyone who volunteered in big or small ways this year: thank you. PARC thrives because of you.

If you've ever considered stepping into a leadership or support role, we encourage you to give it some thought in the coming year. These positions are rewarding, they keep the club moving forward, and they work

best when many hands share the load. Whether you're new to PARC or a long-time member, your talents and enthusiasm can make a real difference.

Here's to the volunteers who make it all happen - and to the next generation of members who will help carry the club into the future. Thank you for being part of PARC's success.

The 2026 Amateur Radio Challenge Checklist

Amateur radio is often described as *the hobby of a thousand hobbies* - and for good reason. Whether your interests lean toward HF, VHF/UHF, space communications, digital modes, contesting, public service, building, mentoring, or simply learning something new, there's always another path to explore.

The Amateur Radio Challenge Checklist, originally created in 2023 by Anthony, K8ZT, is designed to help hams of all experience levels discover (or rediscover) that sense of exploration. For new operators, it offers a friendly roadmap of ideas to spark curiosity and build skills. For seasoned operators, it provides a menu of challenges that may stretch comfort zones, revive underused equipment, or encourage trying something entirely new. As you look ahead to your radio activities in 2026, keep this checklist nearby. You don't need to complete everything - just pick what interests you and see where it leads.

The checklist spans a wide range of activities, including bands and modes you may not have tried yet, operating awards and events, portable operating, space communications, building, and opportunities to give back through mentoring, teaching, and club involvement. Some items are intentionally easy wins, others may take planning and persistence, but all are meant to encourage growth, experimentation, and fun.

Thank you to Anthony for sharing his list with us for reprint in our newsletter (*with a few small updates*). Anthony currently serves as the ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator and received the 2024 Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award for his extensive outreach and educational presentations to clubs around the world. He also maintains a well-regarded collection of amateur radio tools, guides, and learning resources at <https://www.k8zt.com/> (with even more informative materials at www.tiny.cc/k8zt-p < a google drive).

As we move through 2026, we'll periodically highlight individual checklist items - some quick and approachable, others more ambitious - to help spark ideas and share member experiences. Whether you check off one item or many, the real goal is simple: try something new, learn something along the way, share your newfound knowledge with others, and enjoy the incredible breadth of amateur radio.

Portland Amateur Radio Club - W7LT ARRL 2025 Summer Field Day - Final Results Top 10 Oregon Scores

Call	Score	Club Name
1 N7LE	5,909	Central OR DX Club
2 W7OTV	5,834	Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
3 W7LT	5,205	Portland ARC
4 K6SEA	5,014	n/a
5 W7PXL	4,404	Valley RC/Emerald ARS
6 W7D	4,228	CARE/Rogue Valley ARC
7 W7VW	3,317	Klamath Basin ARA
8 W7SAA	3,132	Salem ARC
9 KT7E	2,904	Willamette Valley DX Club
10 W7Q	2,898	Hoodview ARC

*PARC was 3rd in Oregon out of 75 entries,
and 200 out of 4,373 total entries.*

2026 Amateur Radio Challenge Checklist – W7LT.org

Band Worked	Mode Worked	Activity (or mode of op)
☐ - 2,200 M (135 kHz)	☐ - SSB	☐ - Repeater QSO (2 M and up)
☐ - 630 M (472 kHz)	☐ - CW	☐ - Repeater QSO (10 or 6 M)
☐ - 160 M (1.8 MHz)	☐ - AM	☐ - Simplex FM QSO (VHF/UHF)
☐ - 80/75 M (3.5/3.8 MHz)	☐ - FM	☐ - SSB QSO (VHF/UHF)
☐ - 60 M (5.3 MHz)	☐ - PSK (31, 63)	☐ - CW Contact
☐ - 40 M (7 MHz)	☐ - FT4	☐ - Contest Contact
☐ - 30 M (10.1 MHz)	☐ - FT8	☐ - Satellite and/or EME Contact
☐ - 20 M (14 MHz)	☐ - Other WSJT- X Modes (FSK441, JT6M, JT65, etc.)	☐ - Fox Hunt (ARDF)
☐ - 17 M (18 MHz)	☐ - JS8call	☐ - WinLink Contact
☐ - 15 M (21 MHz)	☐ - Packet radio (AX25)/APRS	☐ - EchoLink Contact
☐ - 12 M (24.9 MHz)	☐ - SSTV or Fast Scan ATV	☐ - WAS (work all 50 states)
☐ - 10 M (28 MHz)	☐ - Digital FM- DMR, D-Star, Fusion, etc.) including Hotspots	☐ - Work 50 countries
☐ - 6 M (50 MHz)		☐ - Work 100 countries
☐ - 2 M (144 MHz)	☐ - Pactor, Clover, Olivia, Throb, DominoEX, MT63, Thor, AMTOR, etc.	☐ - WAC - Work All Continents
☐ - 1.25 M (222 MHz)		☐ - POTA (Parks On The Air) or SOTA (Summits On The Air) Chaser Contact
☐ - 70 cm (460 MHz)	☐ - FAX or Hellschreiber	☐ - POTA Activator
☐ - 33 cm (902 MHz)	Club	
☐ - Higher Microwave Bands	☐ - Attend an ARC meeting	☐ - SOTA Activator
Build or Install	☐ - Present at ARC meeting	☐ - Work 7th Area QSO party
☐ - New VHF/UHF Antenna	☐ - Head a committee	Build/Test/Repair
☐ - New HF Antenna	☐ - Attend a Hamfest	☐ - Electronics Kit or Homebrew
☐ - New Mobile Radio	☐ - Teach a Licensing Class or be a VE	☐ - Use an Antenna Analyzer or nano-VNA to measure
☐ - New Mobile Antenna	☐ - Mentor a new ham	☐ - Fix non-working Radio
☐ - Computer/Radio Interface	☐ - Write a newsletter article	☐ - Arduino, Rasp Pi, ESP32, or other microprocessor Project or Program
☐ - Club building project	☐ - ARRL Membership	

Crawford Broadcasting Tower Removal – Photo Update

The photos below (provided by Denny WB7UFJ) document the careful, methodical dismantling of the former Crawford Broadcasting radio tower, taken down section by section and transported to the PARC Mt. Scott repeater site for storage. As reported in our Q2 and Q3 issues, this effort was a coordinated project involving planning, safety oversight, and volunteer time to preserve the tower rather than see it scrapped.

The tower is now safely stored and available for future use by PARC, subject to site considerations, engineering assessments, further planning, and funding. These images highlight the scale of the structure and are a reminder of the behind-the-scenes work that supports our club's long-term infrastructure goals.



PARC REMOTE ACCESS FLEX 6600 HF RADIO

Don't forget that the club's remote FLEX 6600 HF radio is now operational and available for use by club members. This state-of-the-art SDR radio is accessed through the internet and SmartSDR applications on your Windows and Mac computers. It works great with iOS and Android apps.

The antenna is an 80-6 meter DX Commander vertical antenna, perfectly situated in a quiet RF environment, ensuring optimal performance for all your HF contacts. Whether you're into SSB, digital, or CW contacts, this FLEX 6600 HF radio is an excellent choice, providing clear and reliable communication.

The station is remotely managed with the Station Controller provided by George Zafiropoulos, KJ6VU. George generously included PARC in the beta test of the Station Controller which is giving us the ability to remotely power cycle, manage, and register the radio with Flex Radio.

To gain access to this great resource, please contact Ken AI7LF at ai7lf@w7lt.org. He will provide you with the necessary instructions, username, and password to get on the air with this radio.

Volunteers Needed for Tuesday PARC Net Control

Our weekly PARC Tuesday Night Net at 7:00 p.m. is an important touchpoint for the club — a chance to share announcements, check in, and stay connected. The net is low pressure and short (15 to 20 minutes), and a script is provided so there is no improvising required (unless you want). All it takes is a willingness to read, listen, and keep things moving. *Please reach out to Pete pmrodabaugh@gmail.com or Wayne wa7ne@w7lt.org for more information.*

Many hands make light work. If you've never been Net Control before, this is a great way to build confidence on the air and help the club at the same time. Please consider volunteering for a turn or two!

Upcoming Club and Regional Calendar	
PARC Club Net Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on 146.84 club repeater W7LT	
Dates	Event
January 5	Board Meeting
January 12	Club Meeting
January 17	East County Fox Hunt - MHCC - Fisheries Building 11am start
TBD - January	Club Pico Balloon Launch
Jan. 24-25	Winter Field Day - winterfieldday.org
February 2	Board Meeting
February 9	Club Meeting
February 21	Salem Hamfair - Rickreal, OR
March 2	Board Meeting
March 7	Mike & Key Swapmeet - Puyallup, WA
March 9	Club Meeting
March 21	East County Fox Hunt - MHCC - Fisheries Building 11am start
April 6	Board Meeting
April 13	Club Meeting
TBD - April	Club POTA Party
May 4	Board Meeting
May 11	Club Meeting
May 16	East County Fox Hunt - MHCC - Fisheries Building 11am start
May 16-17	Tillamook Burn Trail Run - Communications Support
June 1	Board Meeting
June 5-7	Sea-Pac Hamfest - Seaside, OR
June 8	Club Meeting
June 27-28	ARRL Field Day

Upcoming Contests of General Interest
ARRL RTTY Roundup, January 3-4
North American QSO Party CW, January 10-11
North American QSO Party SSB, January 17-18
ARRL January VHF Contest, January 17-19
North American SSB Sprint, February 1
North American CW Sprint, February 8
North American RTTY Sprint, March 15
7th Call Area QSO Party, May 3-4
ARRL Inter. Digital Contest, June 6-7
ARRL June VHF Contest, June 13-15
<i>see more at contestcalendar.com by WA7BNM</i>

Logic Puzzle: "Three Operators, Three Styles"

Three PARC members compared their recent operating sessions. Each operator used a different **power level**, did a different **activity**, and used a different **mode**.

Operators: Jim, Kathleen, Etienne

Power: 5W, 20W, 100W

Activity: SOTA, POTA, Contest

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Clues

1. The **SOTA** operator ran the **lowest power** of the three.
2. **Etienne** used **CW**, but he was **not** the **Contest** operator.
3. The **POTA** operator used **SSB**.
4. **Jim** did **not** operate **Digital**, and he did **not** run **100W**.
5. The **Contest** operator ran **100W**.
6. **Kathleen** was **not** the **SOTA** operator.

Match each operator to their power level, activity, and mode.

Name	Power	Activity	Mode

Logic Puzzle: "The Mystery of Three Antennas"

Three club members compared their recent operating setups. Each used a different **antenna**, worked a different **band**, and chose a different **operating location**.

Operators: George, Lauren, Bob

Antennas: End-fed, Dipole, Yagi

Bands: 10m, 2m, 70cm

Locations: Parking-lot portable, Hike-in portable, Home base

Clues

1. The **Yagi** was used on **70cm**.
2. **Lauren** wasn't at **Home base** and didn't use the **End-fed**.
3. The **10m** operator was **Parking-lot portable**.
4. **George** didn't use a **Dipole**, and he wasn't **Hike-in portable**.
5. **Bob** worked **2m**.

Who used what antenna, on which band, from where?

Name	Antenna	Band	Location

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this quarter's newsletter, including – Dan N7CQR, Ken M. AI7LF, Denny WB7UFJ, David KK7VKR, Ylian KK7VZT, George KJ6VU, Kathleen K7KER, Brion W7CBK, Etienne K7ATN, Lauren KK7PBA, Raoul W7RPS, and Sean KK7OVF (Editor).

Your PARC member articles and contributions are welcome and encouraged!

Solutions to logic puzzles:

Name	Power	Activity	Mode
Jim	20w	POTA	SSB
Kathleen	100w	Contest	Digital
Etienne	5w	SOTA	CW

Name	Antenna	Band	Location
Lauren	Yagi	70cm	Hike-in portable
Bob	Dipole	2m	Home base
George	End-fed	10m	Parking-lot portable